



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/069,622	02/27/2002	Tomoki Ueyama	SPO-0207	1570

7590 06/16/2005

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY
600 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3096

EXAMINER

AMINZAY, SHAIMA Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2684

DATE MAILED: 06/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/069,622	Applicant(s) UEYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Shaima Q. Aminzay	Art Unit 2684	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-5 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>February 1, 2005</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The following office action is in response to Amendment, December 13, 2004.

Claims 1-5 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action.

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Emmert (Emmert U. S. Patent 6,352,434).

Regarding claim 2, Emmert teaches a flexible printed circuit board comprising first and second connection portions (see for example, Figures 16 A and 16 B, column 9, lines 28-33, column 11, lines 15-19, the flexible printed circuit board first portion (2724) and second portion (2726)), where contacts are exposed and first and second path portions where conductor patterns are arranged that connect the contacts of the first and second connection portions together (see for

example, Figures 16 A and 16 B, column 9, lines 46-52, column 11, lines 10-19, the contacts of the first portion (2724) and the second portion (2726) are exposed and arranged that to be connected together), and wherein the first and second path portions are formed so as to have substantially symmetrical shapes with each other about a predetermined straight line (see for example, Figures 16 A and 16 B, column 9, lines 28-30, and lines 37-41, the first and second portions having substantially symmetrical shapes with each other about a straight line such as length 2706), and the flexible printed circuit board is folded up along the straight line (see for example, Figure 15, column 8, lines 47-50, the flexible printed circuit board is folded about horizontal straight line as can be viewed in figure 15).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 3-5 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed December 13, 2004 have been fully considered.

5. Arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-5 are moot in view of indicating that they are allowable subject matter.
6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 2 under 102(b) Rejection has been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

The applicant's argued features in the claim 2 (page 2-3), i. e. "...there is a significant difference between the claimed flexible printed circuit board and Emmert's circuit element that scotches the factual determination that Emmert discloses a flexible printed circuit board identically corresponding to that claimed", and "first and second path portions in substantially symmetrical shapes with each other about a predetermined straight line, and the flexible printed circuit board is folded up along that straight line. No such structure is disclosed or suggested by Emmert. Applicants stress that Emmert neither discloses nor suggests forming first and second path portions in substantially symmetrical shapes with each other about a predetermined straight line, and folding up a flexible printed circuit board along that straight line". The Examiner respectfully disagrees. As discussed in the rejected above, regarding claim 2, Emmert

discloses a flexible printed circuit board (Figures 16A-16B (316)) comprising first and second connection portions (see for example, Figures 16 A and 16 B, column 9, lines 21-52, column 11, lines 10-19, the flexible printed circuit board first portion (2724) and second portion (2726)), the contacts are exposed and first and second path portions where conductor patterns are arranged that connect the contacts of the first and second connection portions together (see for example, Figures 16 A and 16 B, column 9, lines 21-52, column 11, lines 10-19, the contacts of the first portion (2724) and the second portion (2726) are exposed and arranged that to be connected together), and wherein the first and second path portions are formed so as to have substantially symmetrical shapes with each other about a predetermined straight line (see for example, Figures 16 A and 16 B, column 9, lines 21-52, and lines 37-41, the first and second portions having substantially symmetrical shapes with each other about a straight line such as length 2706), and the flexible printed circuit board is folded up along the straight line (see for example, Figure 15, column 8, lines 47-50, the flexible printed circuit board is folded about horizontal straight line as can be viewed in figure 15).

Emmert analogous to the applicants teaching, that's why it does obviate.

Therefor, Examiner believes the prior arte reads upon the claimed limitations as cited above. Accordingly, this action is FINAL.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

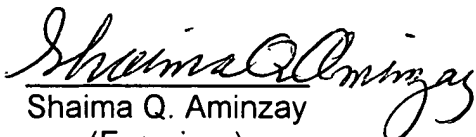
Inquiry

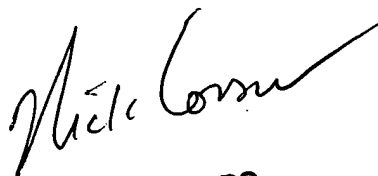
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shaima Q. Aminzay whose telephone number is 571-272-7874. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 AM -5:00 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nay Maung can be reached on 571-272-7882, the primary examiner, Nick Corsaro can be reached on 571-272-7876. The fax number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Shaima Q. Aminzay
(Examiner)


NICK CORSARO
PRIMARY EXAMINER


Nay Maung
(SPE)
Art Unit 2684

Jun 6, 2005